CHAPTER IV.—Powers and Duties of Supervising Officers

Powers and Duties of Supervising Officers

36. *Famine Commissioner.*—The Famine Commissioner shall direct and exercise complete control over all branches of famine relief. He shall constantly move about supervising operations, giving advice and instructions on the spot and communicating freely by telegram and letter with Divisional Commissioners, Collectors and other superior officers with the object of securing promptitude in action, uniformity of procedure, the reduction of correspondence by frequent personal conferences and by the use of the telegraph, and the speedy removal of any misunderstanding of orders. He shall keep a close watch on all expenditure on scarcity and famine relief measures and take prompt steps to check any tendency to extravagance which he may note in any district. He shall keep himself thoroughly informed of the whole course of events, shall report to Government all orders issued by him relating to expenditure and other important matters, shall submit to Government such reports and returns as Government may prescribe and shall carry out the orders of Government.

37. *Personal Assistant to the Commissioner.*—Each Commissioner of a Division shall, in his own division, have the chief executive control of scarcity administration and of famine administration in addition to his ordinary duties, a Personal Assistant being apppointed, if necessary, to assist him in the ordinary duties of administration.

38. *Collector.*—The Collector shall be the responsible head and director of famine operations within his own district. When scarcity has been declared in his district he shall have absolute authority in selecting works from the scarcity works programme, fixing dates for the opening and closing of such works and rates of wages to be paid when the normal rate is inadequate owing to any excessive rise in prices of food-stuffs and in case of village works in all matters relating to the employment and wages of labourers, the distribution of gratuitous relief and generally in all matters affecting relief which are not exclusively professional. When famine has been declared to exist in his district he shall in addition to the powers above mentioned have absolute authority in all matters relating to the employment and wages of labourers on famine relief works and variations from the standard tasks. He shall keep the Director of Public Health advised in advance of the probable requirements of the district in respect of medical officers. Officers of all departments employed on famine duty within the limits of his district shall obey his orders on all points not exclusively professional. In any case in which the Collector's authority is questioned by an officer of the Public Works or other Department, the Collector's orders shall be obeyed pending a reference which may be made to the Commissioner.

39. *Personal Assistant to the Collector.*—In order that the Collector may move actively about his district, a Personal Assistant may be appointed to carry on the routine work of the office, to conduct the ordinary correspondence and generally to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Collector.

40. *Superintending Engineer.*—The Superintending Engineer shall exercise general supervision over the operations of all Public Works Department officers in his circle, and shall be responsible for the proper conduct of all public works in accordance with the provisions of this Code and of the Public Works Department Code. He shall, by personal communication and otherwise, keep himself in constant touch with the Commissioner and Collectors on matters not of an exclusively professional nature. His attention shall be specially directed to—

(*a*) the passing of the necessary plans and estimates for all relief works and the preparation of fresh schemes to take the place of those commenced, completed or eliminated from the famine programme;

(*b*) the selection of the most suitable works for famine labour;

(*c*) the entertainment and distribution to the best advantage of such additional engineering staff as may be required in his circle;

(*d*) the requirements of the Executive Engineers in respect of tools and plant.

41. *Executive Engineer.*—The Executive Engineer shall, in all matters which are not exclusively professional, be subject to the control of the Collector. He shall supervise all scarcity works which are under the management of the District Local Board and of Municipal Bodies and shall manage all public works in the district and be responsible for their efficiency. All officers on works, including the Charge Officer and Sub-Assistant Surgeon on famine relief works, and any special medical officers appointed to attend to scarcity works managed by the Public Works Department shall be subordinate to the Executive Engineer.

42. *Personal Assistant to the Executive Engineer.*—In order that the Executive Engineer may move actively about his district, a Personal Assistant may be appointed to carry on the routine work of the office, to conduct the ordinary correspondence, to assist in the audit of accounts and generally to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Executive Engineer.

43. *Revenue Sub-Divisional Officer.*—Subject to the general control of the Collector, the Sub-Divisional Officer shall organize and administer the different kinds of relief measures, excepting scarcity works managed by the District Local Board and Municipalities and works in charge of the Public Works Department, in the talukas under his charge. He shall visit the villages in his charge as frequently as possible to see that the provisions of the Code are being carried out by the taluka and circle officers, that relief is being efficiently and economically administered, and that provision for the future is being duly made. He shall pay special attention to the scarcity works in charge of the Revenue Department and the distribution of gratuitous relief in the villages and in kitchens and poor-houses.

44. *Inspection of Scarcity and Famine Relief Works.*—The Sub-Divisional Officers and such other officers as the Collector may expressly empower shall regularly inspect the scarcity and famine relief works within their respective charges and shall submit reports to the Collector through the Executive Engineer on the following points:—

(1) Number of workers—men, women, and children being shown separately.

(2) Number of non-working dependents with the worker.

(3) Physical condition of the workers and non-working dependents.

(4) Suitability or otherwise of the work for relief purposes.

(5) Water supply and measures taken to protect it.

(6) Distance of nearest bazar and whether people can obtain supplies without difficulty.

(7) Sanitation of the surroundings of the work and general health of the people.

(8) Sufficiency of wages paid, and, in case of famine relief works, capacity of workers to perform the task set.

(9) Formation of gangs, and method of payment of wages followed, whether satisfactory or otherwise.

The inspecting officers shall also record their remarks in an inspection book which shall be kept on each work by the officer in charge of it, and in case of any very serious abuse shall inform the Collector by telegram, or special messenger, if there is no telegraph office in the vicinity.